

qualifying organizations for premium awards to exhibitors of agricultural displays. Annually, the Board issues the *Maryland Fair & Show Schedule*.

The Board's nine members are appointed by the Governor to five-year terms (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 10-301 through 10-303).

TOBACCO AUTHORITY

Earl F. Hance, *Chair*, 1999

Raymond E. Hutchins, *Executive Secretary*
(410) 841-5770

Created in 1947, the Tobacco Authority investigates and studies tobacco marketing and production in Maryland (Chapter 61, Acts of Special Session of 1947). The Authority provides information about the tobacco price structure and recommends legislation to provide more efficient handling of tobacco. Along with buyers and commission agencies, the Authority has a voice in fixing marketing periods, and it assures the accuracy of weights and measures used by tobacco commission selling agencies.

Purchasers and commission agencies (individuals, firms, associations, or corporations who sell tobacco) are licensed by the Authority. In addition, the Authority collects a fee from the owners of tobacco sold at a commission agency. To develop markets for Maryland tobacco, a representative of the Tobacco Authority visits manufacturers in foreign countries, as well as in the United States.

The Authority is composed of eight members appointed by the Governor for three-year terms. Authorization for the Authority continues until July 1, 2001 (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 7-201 through 7-209, 7-401 through 7-418).

MARYLAND WINERY & GRAPE GROWERS' ADVISORY BOARD

Vacancy, *Chair*

Contact: Theresa A. Brophy (410) 841-5770

The Maryland Winery and Grape Growers' Advisory Board was organized in 1987 (Chapter 507, Acts of 1987). The Board advises the Secretary of Agriculture on the allocation of funds to promote the production of Maryland grapes and wines.

The Board consists of nine members. Eight are appointed to three-year terms by the Governor upon recommendation of the Secretary of Agriculture. One serves *ex officio* (Code Agriculture Article, secs. 10-1001 through 10-1007).

OFFICE OF ADMINISTRATIVE SERVICES

Douglas H. Wilson, *Director*

50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-5881

The Office of Administrative Services oversees central services, data processing, fiscal services, and personnel services, as well as the Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation.

MARYLAND AGRICULTURAL LAND PRESERVATION FOUNDATION

Dan C. Shortall, Jr., *Chair*, 1996

Paul W. Scheidt, *Executive Director*

50 Harry S Truman Parkway
Annapolis, MD 21401 (410) 841-5860

The Maryland Agricultural Land Preservation Foundation was started in 1977 (Chapter 784, Acts of 1977). The Foundation implements the *Agricultural Land Preservation Program*. The Program's intent is to preserve productive agricultural land and woodland in Maryland, provide for the continued production of food and fiber, curb the extent of urban sprawl, and protect agricultural land and woodland as open space. The Program depends on the cooperation of county governments, which appoint local agricultural preservation advisory boards. Participation in the Program is voluntary on the part of landowners.

By agreement with the Foundation, landowners may initiate the creation of an Agricultural Preservation District in which subdivision and development are restricted for at least five years. The creation of such a district protects normal agricultural activities and enables landowners to make application to sell a development rights easement. Based upon the availability of funds allocated by the counties, the Foundation may acquire easements in accord with a competitive formula defined by law and subject to local recommendation and appraisal. Easements thus acquired are perpetual but may be repurchased after twenty-five years if certain procedures and requirements are met. By gift, devise, bequest, or grant, the Foundation also may receive easements in gross or other rights to restrict the use of agricultural land and woodland.

Maryland has preserved more farmland than any other state. By June 30, 1994, Maryland had saved 263,986 acres in agricultural preservation districts and acquired permanent development rights easements on 109,909 acres.

The Foundation is governed and administered by a twelve-member Board of Trustees. Nine at-large members are appointed by the Governor who names one of these the chair. Three members serve